

Energy Subcommittee Minutes, Brown County  
Thursday, January 6, 2022, 5:30 PM  
Room 200 305 Walnut St, Green Bay

Present: Chair Supervisor Suennen, Vice-Chair Supervisor Friberg, Jenny Brinker, Nathan Carlson,  
Kyle Zimonick

Absent: Robert Kosky,

Other Attendees; Dean Haen, Director, Resource Recovery Department

1. Call to Order Meeting called to order @ 5:31pm by Chair Suennen
2. Approve/Modify Agenda  
Motion to approve by Supervisor Friberg. Second by Member Carlson  
Motion unanimously carried
3. Approve/Modify Minutes of November 18, 2021 Meeting  
Motion to approve by Supervisor Friberg. Second by Member Brinker.  
Motion unanimously carried
4. Comments from the Public  
None
5. Update from Port & Resource Recovery Director, Dean Haen

Port handles import of raw materials that supports a variety of local industries.  
Resource recovery handles everything; recycling, household hazardous waste, and trash.  
Solid waste facility to open in February, 2022. Has the recycling center on Broadway.

Has over 2,000 acres under Port and Resource Recovery management.

Have two landfills, both closed in the mid-90s. East landfill used to produce electricity from landfill gas generation for 8 years. WPS reduced payback rates for electricity generation and it became too costly to continue. Currently flaring off excess gas. Looked into producing stem for the Oneida's, but did not materialize.

New landfill partnered with biogas company "Dynamix" to handle gas cleaning and distribution into Guardian's main natural gas pipeline (4-5 years until gas production). Working with Dynamix to ensure royalties from sale of gas into pipeline. Us Ventures may be able to use methane gas and see if Renewable Energy Certificates (REC credits) could be available.

Landfills are ideal sites for solar array projects as landfills are "closed" and no trees can be planted due to infrastructure. The liners are 5 feet below the surface. Also have Renard and the Cat Islands, which may be a location for wind energy generation.

Exploring other options for use of natural gas (powering county vehicles, selling out of state)

Brown County is member of Green Marine.  
Department has converted about 70% to LEDs. Need \$20,000 to \$30,000 to finish.  
May explore shore power for harbor.

The department has no energy plan.

Member Brinker: What is the size of your department and how do you plan out environmental projects?

Director Haen: We currently employ 13 people. We are a legacy department and make decisions on what makes most financial sense.

Supervisor Suennen/Member Brinker: Areas for energy efficiency improvements?

Director Haen: At the harbor, the buildings and facilities are under private individual ownership, so they have no influence over energy efficiency improvements. Office buildings are kept cool and block walls prevent insulation improvements. Outside of building is steel.

Supervisor Suennen: Any wish list items for your department?

Director Haen: Energy improvement/efficiency grants would be beneficial. Anything that gives us a return on investment.

Supervisor Suennen: How many county buildings are in the Harbor?

Director Haen: None.

Member Brinker: Can you tell us about the garbage/recycling vehicle fleet?

Director Haen: We don't do any pickup, but we are a repository for the garbage and recycling. We contract out trucking to transfer waste. 250 transactions per day. Contractor has 10 trucks and 14 trailers.

Supervisor Friberg: Any issues with settling of the landfills that would cause issues for a potential solar installation?

Director Haen: There is settling, but it is at a uniform rate. There may be issues, but it is not preventing other landfills around the country from installing solar farms.

Supervisor Suennen: Landfill footprints?

Director Haen: Both landfills are around 75 acres. Biggest slopes face East and West.

## 6. Discussion about Energy Data and Usage

Discussion around solar panels at Sheriff's department. Inverter was purchased, but awaiting installation. Member Brinker is planning to potentially have NWTC students install in the future. She will follow up with Dan Carlson. Ray will email Paul Fontecchio for parts information.

Supervisor Suennen has been attempting to get energy data from WPS, but has been meet with delays. There is no department at WPS that can handle the request for County energy data and the request was directed towards risk management.

One issue is that Supervisor Suennen does not have authority to request/receive the information from WPS. Chad Weininger may be able to help this process along. Suennen will contact Weininger.

## 7. Discussion about list of ideas for future projects from committee members

Member Zimonick: Green gas has been gaining a lot of attention within the energy industry. County should continue to pursue selling landfill into the natural gas pipeline.

Supervisor Suennen: Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) are the energy industries solution to energy transmission limitations. RECs promote the use/utilization of renewable energy technologies.

Member Brinker: Energy Control systems are an ideal way to reduce energy costs. Rules/guidelines on personal appliance use could further reduce energy costs (limitations on use, time of use, etc.)

Member Carlson: There are educational opportunities/courses available that would be beneficial for county personnel to attend. Nate took a Building Operator Certification course that cost \$1,500 but was fully reimbursed by Focus on Energy. Attendance time per course was ~48 hours. Focus on Energy also has bi-weekly educational webinars that are free to attend. He will get some current information on focus on Energy.

9. Such other matters as authorized by law. None

10. Discussion re: Future Agenda Items, Dates and Times.  
Next meeting set for Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm

11. Adjourn Motion to adjourn by Member Zimonick. Second by Member Carlson.  
Motion unanimously carried at 6:31 PM